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Thursday, 9 February 2017

Maungtaw commission continues investigation

The Investigation Commission on Maungtaw will probe some of the accusations included in the report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), said Vice-President U Myint Swe.

The remarks came at meeting 4/2017 of the Maungtaw Investigation Commission held at the Office of the President in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

“The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) released a report on the situation of human rights in northern Rakhine State on 3rd February 2017. Among the facts and accusations included in the report, there may be something special to be investigated by our commission, hence the need for us to negotiate and consult,” the Vice President said.

In the report, the State

Counsellor said that “where there is clear evidence of abuses and violations, the Government will take necessary measures.”

After the approval of the commission’s meeting report (3/2017), U Zaw Myint Pe, Secretary of the investigation commission, clarified that “the commission report we have been compiling cleared some accusations and there have been some matters we should continue to investigate, having arranged to include the full text of the commission report.” In addition, Police Major General Zaw Win, a member of the commission, clarified the facts included in the report of OHCHR.

After discussions by the commission members, Vice-President U Myint Swe gave a concluding speech.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Vice President U Myint Swe, right, addresses the meeting of the Maungtaw Investigation Commission. PHOTO: MNA

MOFA issues press release

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a press release yesterday regarding the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) report titled “Interviews with Rohingyas fleeing from Myanmar since 9 October 2016” based on a report written by its delegation, which visited Bangladesh from 8 to 23 January. The following is the full text of the report.

Press Release

1. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a report entitled “Interviews with Rohingyas fleeing from Myanmar since 9 October 2016” on 3 February 2017. The Government of Myanmar considers the allegations contained in the report very serious in nature and is also deeply concerned about the report. Thus, the Government is investigating these allegations through the investigation commission led by Vice-President U Myint Swe. As State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi made it clear in her telephone conversation with OHCHR High Commissioner Prince Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein on 3rd February, where there is clear evidence of abuses and violations, the Government will take necessary measures.

Background to the situation in Rakhine State

2. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar places high priority on addressing the

situation in Rakhine State, and is striving to find a durable solution.

3. The Government is taking a comprehensive approach with the aim of fostering peace and stability in the State. It has adopted short and long term programmes to promote understanding and trust. The Government has formed the Central Committee on Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development of Rakhine State on 30th May 2016 with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as Chairperson. Four working committees have been set up to facilitate the work of the Central Committee.

4. The Government of Myanmar has also established the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, chaired by Dr. Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, to support the Government’s efforts in addressing the issue comprehensively. Prior to issuing its final report in second half of 2017, the Commission will be submitting its interim report to the Government of Myanmar.

5. Even as constructive steps were being undertaken, three police border outposts in northern Rakhine State were attacked by armed men funded and inspired from abroad on 9 October 2016. As the International Crisis Group (ICG) noted in their recent report, the attack seriously threatens the prospects of stability and development in the state. In these circumstances, the Government is taking steps to ensure the safety and security of its people. The Myanmar security forces have been instructed to act within the parameters of rule of law in compliance with human rights refraining from use of excessive force. The Government will spare no effort to take legal action against any perpetrators if there is clear evidence of human rights abuses.

6. On 1 December 2016, an investigation commission led by Vice President U Myint Swe was formed to look into the causes of 9 October and 12-13 November attacks and their consequences.

SEE PAGE 3 >>



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Notification
No.21/2017

1378 ME, 12th Waxing Day of Tabodwe
(8 February 2017)

Formation of the Steering Committee for issuance of National Verification Card (NVC) in Rakhine State for those who will undergo verification for citizenship

1. Since the Temporary Identification Cards (White Card) issued in 1995 to those who need to be considered for citizenship under the Myanmar Citizenship Law of 1982 in the whole of Myanmar expired on 31 May 2015, these people were asked to surrender their cards before the said date. The people who have surrendered their cards need to personally go to the Township National Registration and Citizenship Department and apply for the issuance of the National Verification Card by submitting the prescribed form and affixing their signature or thumb print as the case may be. Upon receipt of the application, the Township Immigration and National Registration Department undertakes necessary procedures to determine the validity of each case and upon satisfaction has been issuing National Verification Cards on a township by township basis.

2. The Rakhine State Peace and Development Central Committee was established for the purpose of undertaking on a priority basis the issuance of National Verification Cards, and this work is being done with great effort to ensure progress. As this work is being done in Rakhine State, there have been instances where there have been many difficulties including the situa-

tion of that region, the need for the applicant to personally go to the respective township offices, when they travel within the township, because of security checks, travel from one location to the other has been very rare, the existence of other forms of pressure, therefore due to these reasons, it has been found that as of 16-1-2017 out of 397497 persons only 6202 persons have been issued with National Verification Cards. According to the situation of the region after the armed violent attacks, during the time when the Tatmadaw and border police forces are conducting area clearance operations, it has been found that there is need for the State Government and the Union Government to carry out the verification and issuance of the NVC cards with great care and priority.

3. Therefore, in order to ensure that the process of verification and issuance of National Verification Cards are carried out speedily with momentum and also for undertaking necessary field trips at the grass-roots level, "the Steering Committee for issuance of National Verification Card (NVC) in Rakhine State for those who will undergo verification for citizenship" is hereby formed with the following persons.

(a) Union Minister Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population	Chairman
(b) Deputy Minister Ministry of Home Affairs	Member
(c) Deputy Minister Ministry of Defence	Member
(d) Minister for Security and Border Affairs, Rakhine State Government	Member
(e) One Director-General	Member
(f) Deputy Minister Ministry of Border Affairs	Secretary
(g) Director-General Immigration and National Registration Department Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population	Joint Secretary

4. The Steering Committee may form other project teams or support teams for conducting field trips at the grass-roots level as needed.

Sd/-

Htin Kyaw
President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
(Unofficial Translation)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

JICA loans for maintenance of hydroelectric power plants discussed

THE possibility of borrowing 10.78 billion yen (Ks131.15 billion) from JICA for implementing an all-inclusive maintenance project for hydroelectric power plants sent from the President of the State was discussed at the morning session of 5th day meeting, 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 4th Regular Session by Hluttaw representatives yesterday morning.

"The agreement for getting the loan covers a 10-year suspension period and a 30-year payment period — 40 years in all, at the interest rate of 0.01 per cent. Baluchaung No. 1 hydroelectric power plant has been producing electric power the country has needed for over 24 years. And the machines of the plant have lasted for a long time.

So frequent maintenance works are being made, just after stopping its operation. Substitutions of the machines are greatly needed for producing power. Upon the completion of maintenance, production will be able to be done to its fullest," said Dr Khin Sithu of Loikaw constituency.

U Shayre Shumaung of constituency 2 of Kayah State agreed that maintenance was necessary to achieve full production, which would benefit his constituency.

"Kayah State's development is still low, as there is not yet peace and stability in the region. Although Kayah has been sending electric power across the nation through the Lawpita Great Grid Line for over 50 years, more than 50 per cent of Kayah State is living in the dark without electricity. Kayah State and the whole nation will develop with the availability of power to the extent it delivers sufficient megawatts. We — the locals from the mother region of Lawpita, support the discussion with heartfelt pleasure on behalf of the whole populace," U Shayre Shumaung said.

But U Kyaw Ni Naing of constituency 11 of Shan State suggested the loan should be used to build new plants instead of maintaining the old ones.

"The present loan amounts to US \$ 96.3125 million at the market exchange rate. So, instead of maintaining plants to operate, it should be assessed to build 100 mega watt new power plants," U Kyaw Ni Naing said.

U Myo Win of constituency 8 of Mon State said it was important to upgrade the grid so that more electricity could be delivered to areas that are still without power.

"We support the project by

policy. In implementing the project, it should be considered to upgrade the grid-lines that will lessen the wastage of power, and to extend the grid lines to the area where it did not reach yet, to balance the economic development," U Myo Win said.

Similarly, U Khin Maung Thi of Loilin constituency said he was in support of the motion.

Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced matters on re-explanation and getting the approval from Hluttaw by the respective Union-level members concerning the foreign loan.

Afterward, Daw Nwe Nwe Aung, Law Drafting Cooperative committee and Daw Cho Cho Win of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Public Accountant cooperative committee read out the reports.

Dr Aung Khin, vice-chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, explained to the Hluttaw the activities of the commission during the ten month period from 1 March 2016 to 31 December 2016.

The representatives then expressed support for the special fund for the socio-economic development of Rakhine State. —Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar literary group urges citizens to promote native literature

THE Myanmar Literature Lovers Association invites citizens to attend an event titled "Cherish the Myanmar Literature," which will be held in Yangon University's Religious Hall at 1 pm today.

The prominent monk Sayardaw Say Kane Da will preach on the topic of Myanmar literature. Bogalay Tint Aung, Gon Htoo U Thein Naing and Maung Khin Min (Danuphyu) will also speak on related subjects. The Myanmar Literature Lovers Association was formed with the aim of Myanmar Literature preservation, proliferation and to lift up and strengthen lovers, to conserve traditions and customs based on the love of Myanmar literature and to serve the bene-



fit of the country with the strength of Myanmar literature.

Citizens are urged to participate in the event that encourages the development of Myanmar literature. —Myanmar News Agency



May Yu FM Radio programme refutes rumours of invented stories in Rakhine

In effect since 1 February 2017, regarding the part-time broadcast as a test May Yu FM Radio Programme that can be received within the area of Buthitaung, Maungtaw and Yathedaung townships in Rakhine State, the following statement has been released to the public.

1. The May Yu FM Radio Programme is broadcasting for local residents living in northern Rakhine State to give news and information to keep up with the times. The permit has never been granted to what so ever organization and who so ever individual to broadcast.
2. Conflicts have taken place recently in the region, causing rumours and invented stories to emerge. It is urgently needed to release the news for the local people living in the region to know the true stories and to know the programmes being carried out by the government and the ministries.
3. May Yu FM is the programme implemented for current needs within the restricted area, and it is broadcast with a view to reaching all local people, in multiple languages —Rakhine, Myanmar and Bengali.

Ministry of Information, Spokesperson & Information Committee (Unofficial Translation)

MOFA issues press release

>> FROM PAGE 1

The mandate of the Commission which inheres the guarantee of security and human rights for all the people of Rakhine, requires it to verify all allegations including those related to area clearance operations. The Commission was tasked to submit a report on 31 January 2017. However, the submission date has been extended so that a thorough report could be prepared after necessary investigations. Myanmar also facilitated the visits of Ambassadors, media and international experts including Ms. Yanghee Lee, Special Rapporteur of the situation of human rights in Myanmar, to the affected areas in Rakhine State. International aid organizations are resuming humanitarian aid to many affected areas in Rakhine.

7. Since the new Government took office, promotion and protection of human rights has been high on its agenda. The work of the National Investigation Commission with regard to all allegations will continue and action will be taken against the perpetrators of illegal acts and human rights violations. The Government of Myanmar stands firm in its commitment to national reconciliation and peace throughout the country.

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
8 February 2017*

State Counsellor accepts credentials from Dr. Stephan Paul Jost, WHO Representative to Myanmar



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi accepts credentials from Dr. Stephan Paul Jost, newly appointed World Health Organization (WHO) Representative to Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Dr. Stephan Paul Jost, newly appointed World Health Organization (WHO) Representative to Myanmar and accepted his credentials

on 8 February 2017 at 10:00 hrs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pay Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views relating to future cooperation between Myanmar and WHO, as well as mat-

ters relating to providing quality health services, distribution of affordable medicines, nutrition and mental health development and production and distribution of healthy food for the people.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Vice President U Myint Swe: Private sector development the key to boosting economy

STRONG encouragement on the development of the private sector, which can promote technology, human resource capability and job opportunities, is essential for pulling up the country's economy, said Vice President U Myint Swe.

"Private sector development is crucial, it is the engine that powers the growth of the economy," said U Myint Swe at the meeting of the Private Sector Development Committee held at the Ministry of Commerce.

"Everyone knows that the government is making concerted efforts to improve the private sector and amend policies to modernize and create a level playing field in the market economy," the Vice President said.

"If we help the development of the private sector, we will get not only the improvement of nation's economy, but also improvements for various other sectors. Which is why we highlight it," the

Vice President said at the meeting where Union Ministers, the Union Attorney General, Presidents from the Central Bank, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Bank Association and from the Myanmar Product Association attended.

As the private sector owns 90 per cent of the nation's economy, the role of entrepreneurs, industrial experts and skilled labourers are important to improve trade and investment and from which it can get job opportunities, higher production and international market penetration", he said.

The government formed the Private Sector Development Committee in November 2016 to implement more effective development programmes for the private sector by taking the role of guiding and coordinating policies and programmes and to improve private-sector related



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the meeting of the Private Sector Development Committee. PHOTO: MNA

laws and regulations. This would solve commercial conflicts and enhance and make more transparent policies and regulations related to the financial sector. In turn, this would stimulate private sector trade and investment, reform state-owned enterprises and promote public-private partnership activities, strengthen human capital, reduce poverty and develop

the education sector.

The committee also cooperates with key persons from the public and private sector to develop a framework, with the help of Asia Development Bank, to implement a system to enhance and improve private sector development.

"Committee members must be in touch with the public to assess their difficulties and to recommend

the amendment of laws if needed to change for the betterment of the public," said the Vice President, adding that the committee would make efforts to meet the public twice a month at the UMFCCL.

The meeting concluded with presentations from committee members for the activities related to their respective sectors.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Law Amending the Translation Commission Law
(2017 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No.1)
12th Waxing of Tabodwe 1378 ME
February 8, 2017

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has promulgated the law.

1/ The law shall be named “The Law Amending the Translation Commission Law.”	(F) two professors/ lecturers from law departments of university and college (in service/retired)	Member
2/ Section 4 of the Translation Commission Law must be replaced as follows: “4” The President of the State shall form the commission with the following persons.	(G) two professors/lecturers from Myanmar language Faculty of university & college (in service/retired)	Member
(A) Union Attorney General	(H) director general	Secretary
(B) two translators skilled in law translation nominated by Union Chief Justice	Department of scrutiny of laws Union Attorney General Office	
(C) two translators skilled in law translation nominated by Union Attorney General	(I) Director	Joint Secretary
(D) two advocates skilled in translating law	Union Attorney General Office	
(E) two professors/ lecturers from English Department, university and college (in service/retired)	I hereby signed under the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. (Sd) Htin Kyaw President Republic of the Union of Myanmar	

Workshop for Disaster Management Collaboration held



The workshop for Disaster Management Collaboration Dialogue held in progress. PHOTO: THAN OO (LEMYETHANA)

THE “Workshop for Disaster Management Collaboration Dialogue” was held jointly by Japan and Myanmar yesterday at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. Officials from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure & Tourism from Japan and officials from the Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation attended at the meeting, where they discussed matters relating to “Dam Operation, Management and Improvement”.

Present at the workshop were 29 officials led by Dr. Hitotada Matsuki, Director of International Affairs, MLIT from Japan and 50 officials led by U Kyaw Myint Hlaing, Director-General of Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department.—*Than Oo (Lemyethna)*



Olea, Melia Yangon’s new restaurant, opens recently to bring the heart and soul of the Mediterranean to all of Yangon’s culinary followers. With a capacity for 60 people and located on Melia Yangon’s 1st floor, Olea features a country style dining room with different atmosphere.

Correction

Please read “Our party was established on 1 June 2010” in “Inn National Development Party presents policy and programs” covered on page-9 of 6th February Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar.—*Ed*

Crime NEWS
ICE, heroin, stimulant tablets seized

A local anti-drug squad discovered 200 stimulant tablets in a car driven by Aung Myint with Kyaw Zin Oo on board. Also found were 13.47 grams of heroin, 4,000 stimulant tablets and 48 grams of ICE in the vehicle at the corner of Bogyoke Aung San Street and Bo Aung Kyaw Street in Botahtaung Township, Yangon on Sunday.

Police have taken action against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Similarly, another anti-drug squad searched a house owned by Maung Ohn of Tin Htet village, Sin Taung village-tract in Pin Laung on Tuesday. The police seized 12.5 kilos of raw opium, Ks5.86 lakh, two mobile phones and a motorcycle. Arrested were Maung Ohn, Ma Than Nwe, Ma Ngwe Lar, Maung Win and Khun Thein Aye for possession of stimulant drugs.

Likewise, police from Dawei District searched a vehicle driven by Aung Paing Soe with Ma Le Le Ei and Tin Myo Aung on board on the Yay-Da-



Aung Myint and Kyaw Zin Oo. PHOTO: MPF

Man found hanging from tree at coffee farm in Nawngkhio

A MAN was found hanging from a tree at a coffee farm in Bantbway Village in Nawngkhio Township in northern Shan State Tuesday evening, police reported.

Investigators say the man is Naing Soe, also known as Naing Kyi, a worker at the farm located in Ward-3 in the village. The body was found by a worker who came to the farm to prepare soil for planting. Authorities are still investigating the case.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Five-car crash on Yangon-Mawlamyine Road

FIVE cars crashed on the road between Yangon and Mawlamyine Tuesday evening, according to a police report.

The wreck happened on the road near Pawtawmu Village in Thaton Township in Mon State. No life-threatening injuries were reported, police say.

A truck heading to Mawlamyine from Yangon being driven by Thiha Tin Htay, 26, collided with an eight-wheeled vehicle being driven by Aung Myint Naing, 32, damaging a major part of body of the truck, which continued to crash into three other cars including an express car and two luxury cars. Actions are being taken against the two drivers under Section 279 of the Penal Code.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Five cars crash on Yangon-Mawlamyine Road on Tuesday. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

LOCAL Business

Watermelon price drops at 105-Mile Muse Trade Zone despite heavy influx of trucks

THE price of watermelons are on the decline at 105-Mile Muse Trade Zone in spite of the large inflow of trucks carrying fruit, according to the Muse trade zone.

After Chinese New Year, many trucks loaded with the fruits entered the Muse market. But the Chinese merchants did not come promptly, resulting in a decline in price, said a fruit depot owner at Muse trade zone. Additionally, rain on 2 February in Muse district further brought down the watermelon price, said the owners of fruit depots.

"Prior to the rain, the watermelon price was not



that low but the price has since then has been on a downward trend," said a local watermelon merchant. About 300 truckloads of

fruit arrived at 105-Mile Muse Trade Zone on 2 February, with the watermelon price of 3.5yuan to 4.3yuan per kilo. On 3 February, over

350 truckloads of fruit entered the Muse market with the price about 3.5 to 4 yuan per kilo, it is learnt.—Myitmakha News Agency

26 companies selected for Thilawa low-cost housing complex

A total of 26 companies have been preliminarily selected to develop the Thilawa low-cost housing complex in Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region, according to the Urban and Housing Development Department under the Ministry of Construction.

The private companies have been invited to carry out phase 2 of the housing project, which includes the Kyansitmin housing complex and the Thilawa Industrial low-cost housing project in Thanlyin Township. Twenty six companies have been selected in the initial stage, it is learnt.

"We selected those companies who are in compliance with tender rules and regulations,"

said an official from the Tender Evaluation and Selection Committee.

The Thilawa Industrial low-cost housing project will be conducted on 20 acres of land, which will consist of three five-storey buildings having four, six and eight-teraced houses. There will be a total of 1,720 rooms 20x20 feet width.

Those interested can purchase the units through the links with the Construction and Housing Development Bank if they cannot make the full payment.

The low-cost housing complexes are being developed in Dagon (Seikkan), Thanlyin, Hlaingthaya and Mingaladon townships, it is learnt.—200

Price of Myanmar eel dropped during New Year festival

MYANMAR's eels did not fetch a good price during the Chinese New Year Festival, even though they have historically been sold at a high price in previous New Year festivals, according to eel market experts.

Merchants are forced

to send the eels to the China market because the eels cannot be preserved for a long time. China is the main buyer of Myanmar's eels. During this year's New Year festival, the eels were offered at a lower price than the actual-market price, it is learnt from

Myanmar eel exporters.

The export price of the eels was Ks13,000 per viss in a maximum. That price was down by Ks500 to Ks1,000 when compared to the same period last year.

About 12,000 tonnes of eels were exported in 2012, whereas only around 7,000

tonnes of eels were recently exported, it is learnt from the eel association.

Eels are traditionally caught in Ayeyawady, Sagaing, Bago, Magwe, Yangon regions and Mon state and the China market is the main buyer of Myanmar's eels.—Mon Mon

Sacha Inchi unable to reach export market due to lack of production

SACHA Inchi products will not reach the export market as there is no self-sufficiency even in the domestic market, according to the Myanmar Sacha Inchi Growers and Producers Association.

Sacha Inchi leaves can be used to make lappet, or tea leaf salad. The Incha peanut is also being sold as fried Incha nut. Sacha Inchi

can bring health benefits for people suffering from diabetes and hypertension, it is learnt.

"There is a mismatch between sales and the demand of the Sacha Inchi. We are linking the growers with the buyers. A purified Sacha Inchi sells for Ks3,000 to Ks4,000 per kilo. However, it cannot be easily purchased. Thailand

proposed to purchase a container loaded with value-added products of Sacha Inchi so as to produce Sacha Inchi oil. But, there is only a small scale plantation," said U Than Aung, the vice chairperson of Myanmar Sacha Inchi Growers and Producers Association.

Seedlings of Sacha Inchi is being sold at Ks200 to Ks300 so as to fulfill the lo-

cal consumption. The seeds of Sacha Inchi are imported from Thailand and these plants are cultivated in the highland regions as a substitute for poppy.

To penetrate more international markets, the growers of Sacha Inchi are needed to cultivate in a systematic way. This being so, they can seek a certificate stating that the Incha pea-

nuts are free from pesticide residue, said U Toe Aung Myint, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Commerce.

Awareness campaigns will be conducted for the growers to expand the plantation of Sacha Inchi. The prevailing price of Sacha Inchi Oil is around Ks20,000 to 26,000 per liter. The seedlings of Sacha

Inchi will be distributed free to those official departments concerned and civil service organisations, it is learnt.

There are around 5,000 acres of Sacha Inchi plantations across the country and the Sacha Inchi is mainly cultivated in Sagaing, Magwe and Bago regions and Shan State.—Myitmakha News agency

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China halts construction at major Lotte project amid THAAD tension

SEOUL — South Korea's Lotte Group said Chinese authorities have halted construction at a multi-billion dollar real estate project after a fire inspection, amid worries in Seoul that Beijing is retaliating against the country's plans to host a US missile defense system.

Separately on Wednesday, Hyundai Motor said it may procure electric vehicle batteries from Chinese companies for a planned China model after South Korean battery makers failed to make a list of approved vendors last year.

Beijing is widely believed in South Korea to be discriminating against some of its companies and cancelling performances by Korean artists without explanation.

South Korean media have described a string of inspections at Lotte's Chinese ventures as retaliation over the government's decision to deploy the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system on land that is currently part of a golf course owned by Lotte, South Korea's fifth-largest conglomerate.

Since December, Chinese authorities have conducted fire inspections, facility inspections or tax investigations at most of Lotte's sites in China including some 120 retail stores, a source with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

The source was not authorised to discuss the matter with media and declined to be identified.

THAAD's powerful radar is capable of penetrating Chinese territory, and Beijing has said THAAD threatens China's own security and will do nothing to ease tension on the Korean peninsula.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang, asked if THAAD had an impact on the Lotte project, told reporters at a daily briefing on Wednesday that he had no understanding of the status of the specific project.

"On principle I can say that China welcomes foreign enterprises to invest. At the same time, relevant companies operating in China must abide by laws and regulations," Lu said.

He said China's oppo-



The logo of Lotte Hotel is seen at a Lotte Hotel in Seoul, South Korea, on 7 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

sition to the THAAD deployment was clear.

Lotte said construction on its project in the northeastern city of Shenyang was halted in December and that it was working to address a matter that needed to be remedied, adding that there had been no major disruptions so far as lit-

tle construction takes place during the winter.

Lotte Group spokesman Song No-hyun declined to comment on media reports about the motives of Chinese authorities.

The proposed land swap deal with the South Korean government for the

THAAD site, roughly 200 kilometres from Seoul, still needs to be approved by a board of a Lotte Trading Co unit.

Lotte's Shenyang project, which covers 1.45 million square meters, includes a department store and movie theatre that are already open. It plans to

construct residences and a theme park.

South Korea said last month it will look to improve communication and cooperation with China to resolve difficulties faced by South Korean companies there.

Hyundai said it was now considering a Chinese battery for a plug-in hybrid version of its Sonata sedan to be sold in China.

Last year, Beijing declined to award certification to South Korea's LG Chem Ltd and Samsung SDI Co Ltd, both among the world's largest electric vehicle battery makers, potentially excluding them from state subsidies and eroding their price competitiveness.

The South Korean automaker declined to comment on reports that its decision was due to tension with Beijing over THAAD.

"Considering various factors in Chinese market and price competitiveness, Hyundai Motor Company is also looking at cooperation with Chinese battery suppliers," the company said in a statement sent to Reuters.—Reuters

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Japanese firms joining Myanmar's 1st economic zone on rise

YANGON — Japan's Ryobi Holdings Co has opened a warehouse in the outskirts of Yangon, Myanmar's Thilawa special economic zone developed by a public-private joint venture between the two countries, joining a growing list of Japanese firms operating there.

The warehouse, operated by Ryobi Myanmar Distribution Services Co,

sits on a 50,000-square-metre land plot in the SEZ on the outskirts of Yangon, Myanmar's commercial capital.

Ryobi Holdings, based in Okayama, western Japan, is a bus and taxi operator diversifying into real estate, consumer goods and information technology.

The company got state approval in May last year

to invest 2.97 billion yen (\$26 million) in a warehousing and logistics service project in Thilawa, Myanmar's first SEZ that has made considerable progress compared with two others. It has been developed by Myanmar Japan Thilawa Development Co, a joint venture formed by the governments and private consortiums of the

two countries.

The Zone A part of the Thilawa SEZ became operational in September 2015 and half of the 78 companies that invested there as of 28 January this year are from Japan.

There are eight warehousing and logistics companies that have invested in the zone, including Ryobi.—Kyodo News

Thai king's daughter given goodwill role with UN crime body

BANGKOK — The new Thai king's daughter, Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol, is to become a goodwill ambassador for the rule of law in Southeast Asia, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime said on Wednesday.

The princess would help to promote justice reform and had a special interest in prison issues, particularly around women in prison, the regional head

of the UNODC told Reuters. She would be active in Thailand as well as the rest of Southeast Asia.

"She doesn't see herself as above the law and is interested in helping out to advance justice reform," UNODC regional representative Jeremy Douglas said.

The announcement of the appointment came a day after a UN human rights expert in Geneva

criticised Thailand for the application of its own lese majeste law which sets out long jail sentences for anyone insulting the monarchy.

A military government has been in power in Thailand since a coup in 2014, and the foreign ministry defended the law and said it was not aimed at curbing freedom of expression.

The profile of the

princess had been rising even before her father, King Maha Vajiralongkorn, took the throne in December. His oldest child, she is the daughter of the first of his three wives.

The princess has served as Thailand's ambassador to the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and as ambassador to Austria.—Reuters

Japan's Abe hopes promises on jobs, defence will temper Trump's tone on trade

TOKYO/WASHINGTON — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe heads to Washington on Thursday hoping promises to help create US jobs and bolster Japan's military will persuade US President Donald Trump to turn down the heat on trade and currency and stand by the decades-old alliance.

Japanese officials have been soothed by security assurances from Defence Secretary Jim Mattis and others. But they worry Trump may go off script when the two leaders meet, first for a summit in Washington on Friday and then for a round of golf near the "Winter White House" in Florida.

Some in Tokyo even worry that Trump, a global businessman and author of "The Art of the Deal", might eventually make some sort of pact with rival China that leaves Japan out in the cold.

"What we want to know is Mr Trump's attitude towards China," said Yukio Okamoto, a former Japanese diplomat with ties to the government. "If it becomes only an economic one, then a deal might be made at some point without the consideration of security issues in the region."

Japanese politicians are also concerned that Abe might make hard-to-keep promises when the two play a round of golf that has echoes of one between Abe's prime minister grandfather, Nobusuke Kishi, and President Dwight Eisenhower in 1957.

US newspapers then dubbed the golf game a "triumph of diplomacy" between the former World War Two enemies. Three years later, Kishi had to resign because of a public furore over the US-Japan security pact that was signed that year.

"A failure of the first official meeting would send a very, very damaging message to the world," said a former Japanese diplomat



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks during a news conference at his official residence in Tokyo, Japan, on 6 October, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

familiar with government thinking.

During his election campaign, Trump complained that Tokyo and Seoul were not sharing enough of the cost of the US security umbrella.

Trump has also lumped Japan with China and Mexico as big contributors to the US trade deficit, targeted its auto trade as "unfair" and accused Tokyo of using monetary policy to devalue its currency to boost exports.

Addressing such concerns, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshida Suga said on Wednesday Tokyo's share of America's trade deficit had declined from historic highs and Japanese firms have invested in the US significantly.

Japan posted a trade surplus of 6.8 trillion yen with the United States last year, down 4.6 per cent from 2015, but US-bound

car shipments rose for a second straight year, ministry of finance data showed month.

Abe, who will be accompanied by Finance Minister Taro Aso and Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, will bring a package of steps Tokyo says could create 700,000 US jobs through private-public investment in infrastructure such as high-speed trains, government sources say.

Speculation is also simmering that Japanese manufacturers like Toyota Motor Corp, whose president Akio Toyoda met Abe last week, could time announcements about investment — either already planned or new — to coincide with the summit.

Japanese display maker Sharp Corp may start building a \$7 billion plant in the United States this year, a person with knowledge of the plan said on

Wednesday.

Trump, who has abandoned the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade pact championed by his predecessor Barack Obama, wants to open talks on a bilateral free trade deal with Tokyo. He also wants to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) binding Mexico, the United States and Canada, the basis of many Japanese firms' investment plans.

Abe prefers multilateral trade deals, but has left the door open to talks on a bilateral pact — despite officials' misgivings that Tokyo would come under intense pressure to open further politically sensitive sectors such as agriculture, while gaining scant economic benefits.

"We know there will be harsh treatment for Japanese agriculture if we deal bilaterally

with the United States," one Japanese official said.

"I don't think Mr Abe will say 'no' to the bilateral option but I don't think he will say it is a good idea, either."

Financial markets are keen to see whether Trump repeats his criticism of Japan for using money supply to weaken the yen to boost exports. Japanese sources have made clear Tokyo will push back on any attempts to bind its hands on a hyper-easy monetary policy central to "Abenomics" growth prescriptions.

On the security front, Abe will be eager for Trump to repeat assurances that his administration will adhere to Washington's commitment to defend disputed East China Sea islands under Japanese control but claimed also by China. The islands are called the Senkaku in Japan and the Diaoyu in China.

Abe is likely to reassure Trump that Japan is willing to play a bigger regional defence role and beef up its military capabilities. A pledge to boost defense spending, however, could be contentious at home in view of Japan's huge public debt.

Some experts cautioned that too subservient a response by Abe, such as a government-inspired jobs creation package, risks confirming Trump's view that old-style Japan bashing works.

"It's a very difficult line to walk to satisfy Trump at the same time not giving the impression that it's Japan Inc all over again," said Jun Okumura, a former trade negotiator who is a visiting scholar at the Meiji Institute for Global Affairs.

Others, though, said Japan has little choice.

As the Japanese official put it, "We have no choice but to ride with the United States, whoever the president is." —Reuters

China punishes former minister, deputy in graft probe

BEIJING — China's ruling Communist Party on Wednesday said it was punishing a former civil affairs minister and an ex-deputy for dereliction of duty, after finding that systemic corruption problems plagued the ministry they ran.

Former minister Li Liguang and former vice minister Dou Yupei did not do their jobs properly and were negligent, the party's anti-graft watchdog said in a brief statement.

"The work unit they had jurisdiction over had a systemic corruption problem," the Cen-

tral Commission for Discipline Inspection said, without giving details.

Both men are to receive what the party called administrative punishments, following an investigation announced last month.

Li will be allowed to stay in the party but will lose many of his rights for two years, while being kept "under watch", the watchdog added.

Dou, who received a "serious" internal party warning, will retire early, it said.

Neither man could be

reached for comment.

Li was in charge of the ministry, charged with overseeing tasks such as disaster relief, from 2010 until November 2016.

China's President Xi Jinping has waged war on corruption for the last four years, saying it threatens the very survival of the Communist Party.

Scores of senior officials in the party, the government, the military and state-owned enterprises have been caught up in the campaign and punished, many with lengthy jail terms. —Reuters

US to cooperate with South Korea, Australia over China, North Korea

WASHINGTON — US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has affirmed close coordination with South Korea and Australia in dealing with terrorism, North Korea's development of missiles and nuclear weapons, and China's assertive territorial claims in the South and East China seas, the State Department said on Tuesday.

In separate telephone talks on Monday with South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung Se and Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, Tillerson and his counterparts agreed to boost cooperation in curbing the Islamic State militant group, North Ko-

rea's "illegal" nuclear and missile programmes, and tensions in the East and South China seas, the department said.

Tillerson conveyed to the ministers US President Donald Trump's intent to strengthen alliances, military cooperation and economic partnerships with the two countries, it said.

He also expressed interest in early meetings with Yun and Bishop. Tillerson, a former chief executive of Exxon Mobil Corp. who took office on 1 February, had separate telephone talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida the same day. —Kyodo News

Opinion

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Let us exert cooperative efforts for peace and stability in our country!

Khin Maung Oo

Security and Rule of Law play an important role in a country. In the absence of these, people will live in anxiety and insecurity, leading to harming and threatening peace and stability of the country. Presently, reforms are being carried out for multi-sectoral development, and necessary steps are being taken to strengthen security and rule of law. During this period, people will surely worry due to the occurrence of certain recent events which seem to show weaknesses and gaps in the security arrangements within the city of Yangon. While performing constructive efforts for peace, stability and development of the nation, we should be forever vigilant and be ready to protect our country from terrorist attacks and criminal acts of destructive elements.

Generally speaking, Myanmar can be said to be

moving in the positive direction, but there are still some with pessimistic views who want to turn back to the wrong side, and those wanting to spread rumors and cause destructive activities, in our society. It is natural that the good exists together with the evil in the world. Yet, we always need to be alert and be careful so that destructive elements could not create dangerous terrorist acts that will harm peace and security Yangon and in the country as a whole. The whole world is fighting against anarchism and terrorism, denouncing them strongly as inhumane acts. Myanmar does not belong to countries where terrorist attacks abound, but the country cannot be said to be free from terrorist attacks. Only sporadically, in some places there are still surprise attacks, robberies, and unexpected murders.

Searches and arrests of those who commit crimes are being done around the clock.

Terrorist attacks occurred only in some places, but some are doing destructive acts, by spreading rumors and invented stories. They themselves and their supporters will be the ones who do not want to see Myanmar peaceful and successful in marching towards our shared goal of a Federal Democratic Union. All our union nationals want to live in peace and live our lives without fear or worry. Unless there is peace and stability, we cannot achieve any development. Hence, we must exert our efforts to promote and support the rule of law establishment of peace and stability in Myanmar. We need to take lessons from previous local and global events. And we must live in unity, while we keep the spirit of nationalism and patriot-

ism in our minds and in our hearts. We must co-operate with each other for the peace, stability and development of the Union, without instigating hatred based on religion race or political beliefs. The most important thing is total eradication of anarchism and terrorism, so that we can succeed in achieving a safe and peaceful environment, and socio-economic development. As we make preparations to hold peace talks and by-elections, all of us should be alert to unexpected acts of terror or destructive acts that may occur in our communities or any place in our country. For those of us who want genuine democracy and the emergence of a modern democratic federal republic, we should all join forces and be forever vigilant to protect the democratic transition process from being de-railed by destructive or subversive acts.

Every country is responsible for wiping out drugs and dealers

Tommy Pauk

THESE days, we read news about the seizure of illegal narcotic drugs in huge volume by the law enforcement agents in some countries and the seized drugs are worth millions of dollars. Few traffickers have been apprehended in the act of carrying these drugs and some illicit drugs are found ownerless. Every country is concerned about the drug trade as it is the scourge for its people especially the youths. Drugs here mean narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and illicit chemical substances and so on. Almost every country has its own drug law to protect its people from menace of using such drugs. The junkies or the users use such drugs not for the medical treatment but for personal sensation. Thus, they become drug addicts and cannot contribute anything good to his or her society. Consequently, physical or mental or behavioral impairment affects the drug addicts. Later, they dare to commit crimes or destroy good tangible things due to influences of drugs. Though UNODC, statutes of drug laws, punitive actions are combating the drug dealers across

the world, the drug trade is still threatening every society in the world. The secret network or routes of drug trade are always changed according to tight undercover investigation of the law enforcement agencies. The narcotics agents around the world are trying to do undercover investigation on the masterminds involving in this illegal drug traffic. However, the masterminds and the drug rings use different tactics to distribute the drugs to the secret market in any country. Therefore, every country ought to take responsibility to combat the drug trade in collaboration with INTERPOL, UNODC and the Narcotics Agents. The respective governments should give the educative talks on narcotics drug abuse and elimination of illegal drug trafficking to the students, youths and the people concerned.

We the global people are truly impressive in the punitive actions against the drug dealers conducted by the Indonesian government and the Philippines government. In fact, combating drug trade cannot be completely done by a single country alone as the culprits involved in drug trafficking are clandestinely doing

the illegal business across the world. Besides, the perpetrators use transnational drug trafficking network. So, they can be detected in every country if we investigate thoroughly. Each and every country leader ought to nurture the youths to be energetic, healthy and capable for safeguarding their country. In this regard, the scourge of drug abuse or drug trafficking is a great challenge or threat for the developed and the developing countries. We should be aware that this is a cancer which kills human resources of any society.

The leader of every country is alarmingly responsible for participating in combating illegal world drug trade as much as they could do. Even then each country must be able to cooperate with any international narcotics agents to bring the culprits to justice. The plain fact is that the producers and dealers of narcotic drugs are the ones who commit homicide for the sake of their personal benefits and money earned from drug trafficking, a lucrative illegal business. In other words this selfish business could cause the extinct of human race unless we totally annihilate the illegal drug trade. If there are numerous drug

addicts in a certain society, the incapable human resources will arise surely. In addition, the victims of narcotic drugs should not only be sent to jail but also be sent to drug rehabilitation centre for their personal better future life. Otherwise, a certain society can lose capable human resources and deteriorate the socio-economic development. The drug addicts are the regular customers of the drug dealers, spending a lot of money in buying drugs. Then they become useless persons for families, communities and society concerned. When they do not have money to buy drugs, they do commit crime to get money for buying drugs. The drug dealers are clever for pushing drugs among the youths. Concerning illegal drug sale, some school students, celebrities of stage and screen and the rich people are targeted or persuaded by the drug dealers. It is not easy to do undercover investigation on the secret dealing and relation between the drug addicts and the drug dealers. The reason is that the drug addicts are totally influenced by the sensation and influence of drugs so they are unable to tell the law enforcement agencies about the source of drug

dealers. Since they are addicted to drugs, they think that if they give information of the source of drug dealers to the law enforcement agents, they might not get the drugs anymore. If there are no drug dealers, the drug will not be available for the drug addicts. For this reason, the drug addicts do not give any information of he source of drug dealers to the law enforcement agency. The drug addicts cannot live without taking drugs every day. Under this circumstance, the source of illegal drugs availability cannot be found easily in real world.

Nevertheless, this drug trade can be cracked down with the co-operation of public, INTERPOL and sensible persons in the world. Every one of us must be aware of the importance of protecting the youth and some adults from the peril of drug abuse in our society. Another important thing is that those who involve in law enforcement agencies and judges in any society must be incorruptible in dealing with narcotic drug related cases. It is no doubt that rectitude in law enforcement agencies and judges with the co-operation of public can wipe out drugs and drug dealers in a certain society smoothly.

National Democratic Force Party presents policies and programmes



U Khin Maung Swe Chairman of National Democratic Force Party.

CHAIRMAN of National Democratic Force Party U Khin Maung Swe presented the policies, attitudes and programmes of his party on 8 February 2017, on Radio and TV programmes.

The full text of his presentation is given below:

Esteemed voters,

I am NDF chairman (U) Khin Maung Swe. Our NDF party exists for the country and the countrymen, serving as a bridge between the government and the people.

Therefore, we'll never be reluctant to stand on the side of the people in all public affairs. Regardless of whichever government coming to power, we'll make concerted effort where Hluttaw politics and public politics are concerned. Such being the case, NDF will behave like an opposition party that stands on the people's side with patriotic spirit disregarding whoever is ruling the nation. This is our explicit commitment.

Now is the time when a new federal, democratic nation is being built. In this regard, much public strength is needed. Only with national unity and collective effort, will the future journey of the state be smooth. That's why the strength of the people is very much required. Why? Without public (support), democracy cannot be achieved. Under the democratic system, diverse views must be accepted. But unity is to be sought within diverse outlooks. If there prevails unity, we can reach a democratic society.

Otherwise, the dream of establishing a democratic society will never come true as long as we are holding the negative views, taking the right to hold a different view as a pretext.

Voter public,

Myanmar's major business has been agriculture-based in successive ages. Farmers have never been prosperous, though. Confiscation of land has rendered the farmers landless. Ir-

respective of whoever reigned the country, the farmers were exploited since the rule of monarchs. In the post independence period, the rice procurement board fixed a price to buy paddy from the farmers.

They then exported their rice. In the socialist era, the then government underpaid the farmers and exported their rice. What about now? The farmers are still being underpaid and rice is being exported at a much higher price. So, the life of the farmers remain the same. The erratic weather, floods, higher prices of inputs, scarce labor force and fall in the price of rice force the farmers to lead a difficult life. However, they are always neglected by the successive regimes.

Now is the time when the government mandated by the people is reigning. Nevertheless, do the farmers get back their land confiscated by the (previous) government? No, not yet. If we really want a change, we'd like to encourage the government to handle the land issues first. Our party has proposed to the Hluttaw for launching a land census.

We submitted a proposal to redistribute land after confiscation of land as the previous governments concerned have done under the 1953 land confiscation law and 1963 peasants rights protection law. But the hluttaws failed to promulgate such laws. Now, NDF has come back to enable the farmers to have the right to own the land and do cultivation. This is our very daring promise, Believe us.

Esteemed voters,

After dealing with peasants' affairs, we'd like to talk about the affairs of the workers.



Party Logo.

There are millions of workers in the factories. We'd like to raise a question as to whether or not the workers are being paid decent salaries and/or wages, they are forced to overwork, they can bear the burden of high commodity prices, they are feeling safe and secure and they are provided social security benefits. The business community is saying that the new foreign investment law will work well. However, we are not seeing the big foreign investors yet.

So, both the entrepreneurs and labors are being faced with difficulty. Though they are going, they can reach their goals. Expansion of industrial zones requires a much higher labor force. Throughout the history of the workers, this era is witnessing the greatest labor force. Worksite injustice has become worse, creating workers' strikes.

These things are not new, for the successive regimes could not have solved the labor issues.

This being so, the workers are not feeling secure, suffering from exploitation. We, therefore, would like to call on the government and the hluttaws to expose the misdeeds of the previous administrations and make transparent changes.

Voters,

We have to tread on the path of peace in order that we can build up a new, federal, democratic union. The achievement in building up of a new, federal nation rests upon the ability to seek national unity.

Such being the case, NDF party will join the people in

- seeking national unity;
- fulfilling the food, clothing and shelter needs of the people; and
- ensuring national interests and national security

Esteemed voters,

You've already witnessed our party's representatives' performance in the interest of the people during the tenure of the First hluttaw at all levels.

So, vote for our candidates! If you choose us, we'll be in your service and at your total disposal.

Once you are not satisfied with our representatives' performance, we'll not stay any longer in the hluttaws. We're not the type of people who will loiter around those who do not want us. So, vote for our NDF candidates.

Thank you.

(Unofficial Translation)

JMC-U continues third day of discussions

THE ninth meeting of the Union Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JMC-U) continues its discussion on its third day at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon.

"We discussed about Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), security matters for the members of the monitoring groups and the role of CSO (civil society organisations)," said Dr Min Zaw Oo, the director of Ceasefire Negotiation and Implementation.

"We developed the proce-

dures first to avoid partiality as much as we can when some are involved in the conflict. We drew up 45 procedures as we practiced the method which is based on the procedure of the least partiality in the battle, he said.

On the first day of the meeting, the group discussed Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), Terms of Reference (TOR) and budget at its ninth meeting at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon. The second day's discussion was about

the draft related to SOP and TOR, for which it was determined needed one more day of discussion. So the meetings originally scheduled from 6 to 8 February will now continue until 9 February. The last day of the meeting will involve discussion on a JMC member's trip to the Philippines under the sponsorship of the government of Norway and mine clearance training and territory descriptions. A press conference will be held after the meeting.—Zaw Gyi (Panita)

Myanmar to take part in Asia U-23 championship qualification

THE MYANMAR U-22 football team will compete in the Asia U-23 championship qualifications which is planned to be held between 15 and 23 July.

The AFC U-23 Championship is an international football competition organised by the

Asian Football Confederation (AFC) for the men's under-23 national teams of Asia. It is scheduled to take place in early 2018.

A total of 16 teams qualify to play in the final tournament. China will host the final stage tournaments.

Myanmar took part in the final stage of championship qualification in 2014. U Kyi Lwin will manage as a coach for U-23 team. The majority of athletes from the team will also participate in the Southeast Asian Games in Malaysia.—Nyi Myat Thawda

Appointment of Ambassador of United Mexican States to Myanmar agreed

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of H.E. Mr. Nathan WOLF LUSTBADER as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Mexican States to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

H.E. Mr. Nathan WOLF LUSTBADER finished Postgraduate studies in International Relations from American University, USA and joined the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Mexico in 1992.

He served as the Chief of Staff to the Coordinator for Economic Affairs from 1992 to 1994, as the Deputy Chief of Staff to Minister of

Foreign Relations from 2001 to 2003 and as the Diplomatic Advisor to the President of Mexico.

He also served in Economic Affairs in Embassies of Mexico to the Uruguay in Montevideo from 1994 to 1998 and the United States of America in Washington D.C. from 1998 to 2001. He can speak Spanish, English, Hebrew, French and Portuguese.

H.E. Mr. Nathan WOLF LUSTBADER will be concurrently accredited as Ambassador of the United Mexican States to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Singapore.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Job Vacancies

The Global New Light of Myanmar, the country's oldest continuously published English-language newspaper, is looking for experienced journalists to join its expanding editorial team. Applications should be sent no later than **21 February, 2017**.

The GNLM currently has openings for a chief editor, two editors, five translators and reporters for its newsroom in Yangon.

1. Candidates for the chief editor (Male, Myanmar national) position must have the following qualifications.

- He must have extensive editorial experience with editing and must possess at least an MA English degree.
- He must have at least 15 years experience with print media in positions at the senior management level and possess good computer skills.
- He must be in good health and willing to work night shifts.
- He must be aged between 40 and 60.
- Salary is negotiable.

2. Candidates for two expatriate editors (Male/Female) must have following qualifications.

- He/she must be a native English speaker and must be a university graduate with a specialisation in journalism.
- He/she must have editing experience at newspapers or online publications.
- He/she must be in good health and willing to work night shifts.
- Age should be under 40, but those over 40 will be considered if he/she possesses excellent skills.
- Salary is negotiable.

3. Candidates for two senior translators (Male) must have the following qualifications.

- He must be a university graduate.
- He must be able to quickly translate and rewrite multiple stories from Myanmar to English, with at least 10 years experience in translation.
- He must be in good health and willing to work night shifts.
- Salary is negotiable.

4. Candidates for three junior translators (Male/Female) must have following qualifications.

- He/she must be a university graduate.
- He/she must be able to translate from Myanmar to English, with at least five years experience in translation.
- He/she can work night shifts.
- Salary is negotiable.

5. Candidates for three senior reporters (Male/Female) must have following qualifications.

- He/she must be a university graduate.
- He/she must be fluent in Myanmar and be able to write clear and concise copy in Burmese. Those who can write news stories in English will be preferred candidates.
- He/she must have experience with writing for an English-language newspaper or online publication. This will be a major advantage.
- He/she must have at least three years experience in print or online media.
- Salary is negotiable.

6. Candidates for junior reporters must have following qualifications.

- He/she must be a university graduate.
- He/she can write news stories clearly in Burmese.
- Salary is negotiable.

For further information, please call or email the following contacts. Applicants should send a cover letter and CV to No.150 Nga Htat Gyi Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, or email: gnlmdaily@gmail.com, dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com or call (01) 8604529, 09-428120086, 09-49445545.

Defence Ministry reveals details of Aerospace Force's snap check



MOSCOW — The snap combat readiness check of Russia's Aerospace Force that kicked off on Tuesday will last through 9 February, Deputy Defence Minister Alexander Fomin said on Wednesday.

The Aerospace Force's sudden check started in the morning of 7 February by decision of Russian President and Supreme Commander-in-Chief Vladimir Putin.

"The check aims to assess the readiness of military command bodies and troops' practical preparedness for accomplishing combat training tasks," the deputy defense minister said at a meeting with foreign military attaches.

Units of the 1st Special

Designation Air Defence and Anti-Ballistic Missile Defence Army, the 15th Special Designation Aerospace Force Army stationed in the Moscow air defence area, and also units of the command of long-range and military transport aviation are being placed on combat alert, the deputy defence minister said.

"Checks are underway in units and formations of the Aerospace Force to assess the readiness of the troops and weapons control system and compliance with the standards of placing them on heightened combat alert. Simultaneously, military command bodies and troops are being checked for their ability to accom-

plish assigned missions and hold planned measures," the deputy defense minister said.

"The check is paying special attention to accomplishing the tasks of deploying air defence means and the readiness of air task forces to repel an aggression," he added.

Units and formations of air defence divisions within the Moscow air defence zone are making marches for their combat deployment in new positioning areas, the deputy defense minister said.

"Radio-technical units are performing a maneuver and the re-deployment of mobile radars to unprepared positions. A check is being held to assess compliance with the standards

for organizing combat duty and providing radar data to the command posts of aviation and antiaircraft missile troops. Special attention is being paid to detecting aerial targets flying at low altitudes," he said.

The aircraft of Russia's long-range and military transport aviation will perform flights at various altitudes to check the readiness of radar units for accomplishing assignments in new positioning areas, the deputy defense minister said.

"In addition, military transport planes will deliver units of antiaircraft missile troops to the Ashuluk practice range where they will hold verification fire against targets," Fomin said.—TASS

Politics drives Italy, France bond yield gap with Germany to multi-year highs

LONDON — Political uncertainty in France and Italy widened the gap between their 10-year government bond yields and those of safe-haven Germany to multi-year highs on Wednesday.

Upcoming elections in France, Germany, the Netherlands and possibly Italy, plus the ongoing debt crisis in Greece, have made investors risk averse in recent sessions, particularly given that bond purchases by the European Central bank are on a downward trajectory.

"This time the ECB is in a less strong position to deal with the problems,"

said ING rates strategist Benjamin Schroeder. "Though they bought at a faster clip in January, the market knows that this will fall off."

The ECB is set to reduce its bond purchases from April onwards from the current rate of 80 billion euros per month to 60 billion euros until the end of 2017.

Market speculation is that the central bank will taper purchases altogether soon after that, particularly given signs of improved growth and inflation in the euro zone and pressure from Germany.

ECB President Mario Draghi looked to play down these concerns this week, saying the euro zone's economic recovery is picking up strength but still requires stimulus.

Uncertainty has been surrounding the single currency bloc in recent weeks. At the forefront are the anti-euro, far-right leader Marine Le Pen's bid for the French presidency and the potential toppling of Chancellor Angela Merkel when Germans go to the polls in the autumn.

In addition, investors in cash-strapped Greece appear to be losing faith in a

pledge from European officials five years ago that the country's default would be a one-off.

The gap between France's 10-year government bond yield and the German 10-year bond yield — the benchmark for the region — rose to almost 79 basis points, the highest since November 2012. The fresh high came amid news that Japanese investors — one of France's key investor bases — sold 232 billion yen (1.94 billion euros) in French bonds in December, logging their biggest net selling since June 2015.—Reuters

Turkish army and Syrian rebels close in on Islamic State town

ANKARA/BEIRUT — Syrian rebels supported by Turkish armed forces have seized control of strategically important hills around the Islamic State-controlled town of al-Bab, Turkey's military said on Wednesday.

It said in a statement that 58 Islamic State militants were killed in air strikes, artillery fire and clashes. Two Turkish soldiers had been killed and 15 slightly wounded.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said the operations had made important progress and the next target would be the Syrian city of Raqqa, the de facto capital of Islamic State.

"The al-Bab operation must be completed immediately in the period ahead ... In recent days our special forces and the Free Syrian Army (rebels) have made serious progress," Cavusoglu told a news conference in the capital Ankara.

The battle for al-Bab has raised the prospect of confrontation between the Turkish military and the Syrian army, which has pushed to within a few kilometres of the city's southern outskirts.

A Syrian rebel official and a monitoring organisation said the advancing rebel and Turkish forces had captured the western outskirts of al-Bab, some 30 km (20 miles) south of the Turkish border.

"With last night's assault, Islamic State's defences have been broken through and the advance is now continuing," said the official, speaking from the Turkish city of Gaziantep. Turkish military reinforcements had been sent to the area about a week ago, the rebel added.



Rebel fighters fire their weapon during an offensive against Islamic State militants, on the outskirts of al-Bab in February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Al-Bab has been a major target of a Turkish offensive launched in northern Syria last August to drive Islamic State away from the border and prevent further gains by US-backed Kurdish militia that are also fighting the jihadist group.

Syrian government forces and allied militia have mounted their own rapid advance towards al-Bab in the last few weeks. The city was encircled earlier this week when Syrian government forces cut the last way into the city. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based organisation that reports on the war, said the Turkish forces and their Free Syrian Army rebel allies had captured a hill on the western periphery of the city.

"We don't know if Daesh (Islamic State) will be able to recover it, or if it is in a state of collapse," Observatory Director Rami Abdulrahman said.

In a video sent by the rebel official, three Syrian rebel fighters with the Sultan Murad faction said they were speaking from inside al-Bab. It was not possible to confirm the authenticity of the footage.

"I am in Bab now but not at the centre. We are on the outskirts. Thank God, we have reached this place," said one of the rebels. Blasts were heard in the background.

The Observatory said at least six people had been killed and 12 more wounded in the latest shelling of al-Bab.

The organisation says Turkish bombardment has killed scores of people since December. Turkey says it has been careful to avoid civilian casualties. Turkish presidency sources said on Wednesday President Tayyip Erdogan and US President Donald Trump agreed in a phone call overnight to act jointly against Islamic State in al-Bab and Raqqa, another Syrian city held by IS.

The White House said in a statement that Trump spoke about the two countries' "shared commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms" and welcomed Turkey's contributions to the fight against Islamic State, but it gave no further details. —Reuters

Zimbabwe's top court throws out case against Mugabe

HARARE — Zimbabwe's Constitutional Court dismissed a case against President Robert Mugabe on Wednesday lodged by an activist who accused the ageing leader of violating the southern African country's supreme law during protests last year.

The case was the first time a private citizen has asked the court to decide whether actions by 92-year-old Mugabe, the world's oldest leader, violated the constitution.

Mugabe, who has ruled the former British colony since independence in 1980, was last year confronted by the biggest anti-government protests in a decade. Security forces responded with teargas and water canon.

Political activist Promise Mkwanzani, whose #Tajamuka group helped organise the demonstrations, said in his application that Mugabe's response and speeches in the protests' aftermath "undermined national security and threatened citizens."

At a meeting with war veterans after one of the protests, Mugabe said his ruling ZANU-PF punished defectors during the liberation war by keeping them "underground like rats, in bunkers" — something he threatened to do to protest leaders.

Mkwanzani said Mugabe also claimed partisan control of the police and army, which is against the constitution.

But the nine-member Constitutional Court bench dismissed the case, saying Mkwanzani did not follow proper procedure in making his application. His lawyer consented to the decision.

"We are going to re-apply within 30 days in terms of the constitution, correcting those technicalities. We are not giving up," Mkwanzani told reporters after the 20-minute hearing.

"The court application is not the only route that we as #Tajamuka shall be taking. It is part and parcel of a multi-thronged strategy in pressuring this government to comply with the constitution and be accountable to the people," he said.

Attorney General Prince Machaya, who was representing the government, made no comment to the court other than to say the case should be dismissed.

Under Zimbabwe's laws, if the top court finds that a sitting president has violated the constitution, it can order parliament to start an investigation that could lead to impeachment.

Mugabe has been endorsed as ZANU-PF's candidate for presidential elections due in 2018. —Reuters

Strike by Berlin airports' staff forces flight cancellations, delays

BERLIN — German ground staff went on strike at Berlin's two airports on Wednesday, forcing the cancellation of 137 flights and delaying many more.

Ground crew, represented by union Verdi, went on strike at Tegel and Schoenefeld airports at 0400 GMT and were due to resume work at 1000 GMT. They want a pay rise of roughly 10 per cent to 12 euros (£10.22) an hour.

Verdi says ground staff, whose roles include loading and unloading planes and directing them on the tarmac, are paid too little considering safety is paramount in the industry and the workload is increasing due to ris-

ing passenger numbers.

Passenger numbers to Tegel and Schoenefeld rose a combined 11 per cent in 2016.

About 500 take-offs and landings were planned for Wednesday at Berlin's airports, an airports spokesman said. He said no more specific figures were immediately available.

Ground crew were also on strike at smaller airports in Hamburg and Stuttgart.

"It's a pay level that for the amount of work we do simply isn't enough," Verdi negotiator, Enrico Ruemker, told Reuters TV at Tegel. "We're due to negotiate for the fourth time on Feb-



Members of Germany's mighty Verdi union take part in a warning strike by ground services, security checks and check-in staff at Berlin Tegel airport, Germany, on 8 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

ruary 10 and if no offer is put forward then further strikes are very likely."

Airlines that serve the German capital, including Lufthansa, easyJet, Air Berlin and Ryanair, had to cancel or delay flights.

Hotel rooms are hard to find as Berlin is hosting a trade fair this week, and easyJet said on its website that it was offering hotel accommodation in Cottbus, about 125 km (78 miles) from Berlin. —Reuters

US conducts 1st F-35 fighter jet training near Okinawa

NAHA, Japan — The US Marine Corps in Japan said on Wednesday that it has begun training with its newly arrived F-35 fighter jets near the southern island prefecture of Okinawa this week, although details were not disclosed for security reasons.

Ten F-35 fighter jets arrived in Japan in January, marking the first deployment of the cutting-edge stealth aircraft outside the United States. They have

been deployed at the US Marine Corps' Air Station Iwakuni in Yamaguchi Prefecture, western Japan.

The 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force, which leads the US Marines in Japan, called the activity that began this week "regularly scheduled training."

It also said in a press release that the fighters will "operate on a transient basis out of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma and Kadena Air Base," both in Okinawa.

The F-35B fighters, the Marines variant of the F-35 plane, are capable of short takeoffs and vertical landings. They are equipped with high-performance radar that can detect ballistic missiles and are capable of escaping radar detection.

They are successors to the F/A-18 Hornet and AV-8 Harrier jets that are currently based at Iwakuni. A total of 16 F-35Bs are scheduled to be deployed at Iwakuni.—*Kyodo News*



File photo taken in January 2017 shows an F-35 stealth aircraft arriving at US Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni in western Japan. It was announced on 8 February that the F-35s have started their first training exercises around Okinawa. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

German agency working to clear backlog of 435,000 asylum cases

BERLIN — Germany's migration agency hopes to clear a backlog of 435,000 asylum cases within months, the organisation's new director said in an interview with Germany's Handelsblatt newspaper on Wednesday.

Jutta Cordt, who took over as head of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) this month, told the newspaper her top priorities were to accelerate the processing of asylum applications, deepen integration, and step up deportations of those whose applications were denied.

"We carried over 435,000 cases into the new year and we want to have dealt with those this spring," the paper quoted Cordt as saying.

She told the paper the agency had received 40 million euros (\$42.57 million) in additional funding

in 2017 to work on repatriation processing and wanted to start that process sooner.

"If there is virtually no prospect for a migrant to stay here, it makes sense to push for an early repatriation and to encourage that financially," Cordt told the newspaper.

More than a million migrants from the Middle East, Africa and elsewhere have arrived in Germany since the beginning of 2015, prompting concerns about security and integration. Polls show that migration will be a key issue in September's national election.

The issue of repatriation, and better identification of refugees, has taken on new urgency after a spate of Islamist attacks carried out by failed asylum seekers, including Anis Amri, the 24-year-old Tunisian man who rammed a truck into a Ber-

lin Christmas market in December, killing 12 people.

Amri, who was shot dead in Italy, had lived in Germany under at least 14 different names, police have said.

Cordt told the Passauer Neue Presse newspaper in a separate interview that local authorities should be taking fingerprints from migrants to better track their identities and avoid multiple asylum applications.

Migrants are currently fingerprinted by police if they cross the German border without a valid passport, then again in a migrant intake centre and for a third time when they file an asylum application.

BAMF has said that it has now biometric data on all migrants, but it is not clear how many multiple applications for asylum benefits have been filed.—*Reuters*

Invitation of Expression of Interest(EoI) for Cooperation in Plastic Factory (Kyaukse) under No. 2 Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Ministry of Industry

Plastic Factory (Kyaukse) under No. 2 Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Ministry of Industry tended to cooperate with Local and Foreign entrepreneurs in it.

As a first step, Companies who interested in those cooperation are required to Expression of Interest (EoI) **not later than 1:00 pm (Myanmar Standard Time), on 28th February 2017 to Technology Development Department, No. 2 Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Ministry of Industry, Office No.41, Nay Pyi Taw, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.**

Interested entities can take over the EoI Form and other indications at above office by presenting the document of company profile.

Document of Company Profile

- Valid Certificate of Incorporation (Form VI, Form XXVI)
 - Record and Regulation of Company
 - Name of Foreign Technical Cooperator (If there)
- Detail Enquire : 067 408160, 067 408208)

Invitation to tender for cooperation at No. 32 Heavy Industry (Kyangin) under No. 2 Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Ministry of Industry

No.2 Heavy Industry (Kyangin) under No. 2 Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Ministry of industry is intended to cooperate with local and foreign entrepreneurs in it.

Companies who interested in those cooperation are required to submit their tender proposal **not later than 1:00 pm (Myanmar Standard Time) , on 28th February 2017 to Technology Development Department, No. 2 Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Ministry Office NO. 41, Nay Pyi Taw, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

Interested entities can take over the tender form and other indications at above office by preventing the document of company profile.

Document of Company Profile

- Valid Certificate of Incorporation (Form VI, Form XXVI)
 - Record and Regulation of Company
 - Name of Foreign Technical Cooperator (If there)
- Detail Enquire : 067 408160, 067 408208)

Japan mulls smoking ban exception for small bars, clubs, restaurants

TOKYO — The health ministry is considering allowing smoking in small bars, clubs and restaurants as exceptions to a contemplated smoking ban, ministry sources said on Wednesday.

The move comes after the restaurant industry voiced opposition to a comprehensive smoking ban being imposed ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

The Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry plans to submit to parliament during the current Diet session revisions to the Health Promotion Law to prevent secondhand smoke, and has worked out two ideas for possible exceptions to the planned nonsmoking rule, the sources said.

One is to allow smoking in bars and nightclubs with floor space of no more than 30 square metres on the condition that a sign is displayed at the entrance indicating smoking is allowed inside and a ventilator is installed.

The other is to allow smoking also inside certain types of small restaurants offering alcohol.

Smoking in restaurants serving customers of all ages would be prohibited under either idea, they said.

Japanese restaurant industry groups held a meeting in Tokyo in January and expressed opposition to a total ban, saying that would drive small operations into closing.

They said Japan should aim to become a leading country in promoting separate smoking areas.—*Kyodo News*

Kenya arrests three over UK-linked voting forms scandal

NAIROBI — Kenyan investigators arrested the former chief executive of the electoral commission and two others in dawn raids on Wednesday, the latest twist of a scandal that has already led to Britain's first conviction of a company for foreign bribery.

The scandal is one of several to engulf the administration of President Uhuru Kenyatta, who is under increasing pressure to curb endemic corruption before elections due in August.

On Wednesday, former election official James Oswago was charged in court with receiving bribes from Trevy Oyombra, the agent for British firm Smith and Ouzman Ltd, a printing firm that won contracts to

print election material in past votes.

The men appeared in court with Hamida Ali, who covered her face with a golden veil stamped with the Chanel logo as prosecutors alleged she facilitated payments using her bank account. All three have denied any wrongdoing.

Prosecutors say the accused used the word "chicken" to refer to cash, asking "have you eaten the chicken?" as code for receiving money.

"As long as Kenyans can see that some people have been taken to court over what has been popularly been known as the Chickengate scandal, we believe that the current commission is going to be

much more careful in its observance of the procurement laws," said Julius Muraya, a deputy director at the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission.

After an investigation by Britain's Serious Fraud Office (SFO), a London court convicted the chairman and marketing manager of Smith and Ouzman Ltd in 2014 of paying nearly 500,000 pounds (\$620,000) in bribes, the SFO's website said.

As plainclothes officers ushered Oswago into a vehicle at his Nairobi home, he protested his innocence and said he was being unfairly targeted.

"This is done for the Kenyan public to believe that the anti-corruption

commission are doing something about corruption in Kenya," he said.

Oswago and other officials were charged in 2014 in cases related to the procurement of voter identification devices and solar lanterns. Those two cases have not yet been concluded.

The government is also facing other corruption scandals, including allegations of missing funds in the Health Ministry and National Youth Service.

Adding to pressure on the president in the build up to the August vote, university lecturers and doctors in state hospitals have been on strike for weeks over pay and working conditions.—*Reuters*

Women pregnant with babies with cardiac ailments see ray of hope

Yukie Saburi

TOKYO — Advances in ultrasonic diagnostic technology have given a ray of hope to woman pregnant with babies having serious cardiac ailments.

“My baby wouldn’t have been here if we had not gotten to know of her disease” before she was born, Nobuko Hiratsu, 29, of Kanagawa Prefecture, said, recalling her ordeal.

She was alerted to the possibility of a medical condition in December 2014 shortly after her pregnancy was confirmed when an obstetrician noticed a swelling of her baby’s body in a medical exam.

In the eighth month of pregnancy, the baby, named Mitsuki, was found to have a cardiac disease and the obstetrician recommended Hiratsu consult with the Kanagawa Children’s Medical Center in Yokohama near Tokyo.

The Kanagawa prefectural government-run centre has been promoting fetal diagnoses of cardiac diseases.

After an intense echographic examination, a doc-



Photo taken in January 2017 shows a doctor at the Kanagawa Children’s Medical Centre in Yokohama examining the cardiac condition of a fetus through echography. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

tor at the Kanagawa center diagnosed severe aortic stenosis, or narrowing of the aortic valve resulting in obstruction of the flow of blood out from the heart. Mitsuki needed surgery as soon as she was born to prevent the possibility of death in a few days, the doctor said.

The centre formed a team of cardiovascular surgeons and other doctors for

the operation. Hiratsu prepared herself for the worst-case scenario.

Mitsuki was born at the center in June 2015 and immediately given surgery. She was released some four months later and now lives with the assistance of an oxygen inhaler.

The centre performed cardiac surgeries on 78 babies within 24 hours of birth

between 2004 and 2015, of whom 61 were found to have serious heart ailments through fetal diagnoses, said Toshihide Aso, head of the cardiovascular surgery department. “Few other institutions have such a high rate of fetal diagnoses,” he said.

Echography shows the configuration of heart structures relatively clearly when fetuses become 18 weeks

old or so, said Motoyoshi Kawataki, a doctor at the centre. Serious ailments, such as the presence of one atrium rather than two, can be found more readily than other minor diseases, Kawataki added.

Kawataki and other doctors at the center now offer training programmes to other hospitals via the Internet in detecting cardiac

ailments in fetuses because experience and skill are required. More than 300 people participate when the programs are held.

Also important is support for families whose babies are suddenly diagnosed to have serious cardiac diseases. Mayu Okamoto, 6, a first-year elementary school student, was diagnosed with a cardiac ailment at the Kanagawa center before she was born and had a pacemaker installed in her heart when she was 1 year old. The doctor “spent enough time to explain her condition and allowed me to ask questions until I could understand it,” Mayu’s mother Aiko, 42, said. Ayami Gonnokami, a nurse at the Kanagawa hospital, said a considerable number of pregnant women become hesitant to give birth when they are informed that their babies have cardiac ailments. “To people with anxieties, I talk about other babies who have grown despite heart diseases. I will continue to support them by offering accurate information so that they can make choices after understanding their situation,” Gonnokami said.—Kyodo News

China vows to crack down on organ trafficking

VATICAN — A senior Chinese representative on Tuesday presented related data on China’s organ donations and transplantations at a world conference here, highlighting the country’s commitment to combating organ trafficking and transplant tourism.

During the first day of the two-day Pontifical Academy Summit (PAS), which was being held by Vatican’s Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Jie-fu Huang, professor and chairman of the China National Organ Donation and Transplantation Committee, presented the data on China’s new program for prohibiting the use of organs from executed prisoners.

Huang said the total number of deceased donor liver and kidney transplant between 2010 and 2016 were 27,600 and China’s Ministry of Health has submitted the detailed statistics to the Geneva-based World Health Organization (WHO) for public release.

From the beginning of 2015, China imposed a total ban on the use of ex-

ecuted prisoners’ organs for transplantation, Huang said, describing the process as “an arduous journey.”

“Rome is not built in one day, the same as for the forbidden city”, he added.

According to Huang, hundreds of foreigners used to come to China every year for transplant tourism before the Chinese government banned the practice in 2009.

From 2007 to 2016, the Chinese authorities formed joint task forces and cracked down on 32 illegal intermediaries, investigated 18 medical institutions, prosecuted, convicted and imprisoned 174 people including 50 medical personnel, and eradicated 14 black market dens, Huang said, referring to the “Zero Tolerance” action to behaviors violating organ transplantation regulations and laws.

On behalf of China at the summit, Huang also proposed to establish a WHO task force to fulfil the mission of the PAS in order to eradicate organ trafficking.—Xinhua

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV FRISIA LAHN VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA LAHN VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV RATANA THIDA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV RATANA THIDA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV UNI-AMPLE VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UNI-AMPLE VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING
LINE

Phone No: 2301185

Madonna granted permission to adopt twins from Malawi



Madonna performs during the halftime show at Super Bowl XLVI between the New York Giants and the New England Patriots in Indianapolis, on 5 February, 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

LILONGWE, Malawi — Malawi's High Court on Tuesday granted Madonna permission to adopt twins from the Southern African country, a judiciary spokesman said.

The US singer has previously adopted two children from Malawi, stirring anger among some Malawians who accused the government of allowing her to skirt laws that ban non-residents from adopting.

Madonna was inside the courtroom when the approval ruling was delivered, judiciary spokesman Mlungu Mvula said. Reuters could not reach representatives for Madonna for comment.

"Madonna has demonstrated over the years that she has passion for Malawi and her children and therefore the court was satisfied and could not stop the adoption of the twins," Titus Mvalo, a lawyer for Madonna in Malawi, told Reuters.

Mvula said that one of the

conditions of the adoption was that Madonna should provide a report showing that the home in which they lived was suitable.

He could not provide details on the children she will be adopting, saying it was against the law to divulge such particulars at this stage.

Madonna, 58, adopted Malawian children David Banda and Mercy James in 2006 and 2009. She has two other children, Lourdes and Rocco, from previous relationships.

Madonna denied reports that she wanted to adopt again after she visited Malawi last month, at the time saying her trip was for her charity work. She established the non-profit Raising Malawi in 2006 to provide health and education programs, particularly for girls. The organization is currently building a children's unit at a hospital in Blantyre, Malawi's second-largest city, and has built 10 schools, according to its website.—Reuters

Halle Berry, Scarlett Johansson to present at Oscars

LOS ANGELES — Halle Berry, Scarlett Johansson and Samuel L Jackson are just some of the stars set to take the stage at the 89th annual Oscars later this month.

Others added to the list of presenters include Chris Evans, Gael Garcia Bernal, Shirley Maclaine, Kate McKinnon, Hailee Steinfeld and "Fifty Shades" stars Jamie Dornan and Dakota Johnson, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Last week, the Motion Picture Academy announced that last year's acting winners would present at this year's awards ceremony,

suggesting they would continue the tradition of having the previous year's winner present the Oscar to the next trophy recipient.

Berry won the best actress Oscar for her role in "Monster's Ball" while Jackson earned a best supporting actor nomination for his role in "Pulp Fiction."

MacLaine won a best actress Oscar for her role in "Terms of Endearment" and was nominated for her leading roles in "The Turning Point", "Irma La Douce", "The Apartment" and "Some Came Running."

Steinfeld was nominated for best supporting actress for her role in "True Grit."

Evans and Johansson have appeared together in various Marvel films and will co-star again in "Avengers: Infinity War."

"These actors are why we love to go to the movies," producers Michael De Luca and Jennifer Todd said in a statement announcing the latest group of presenters. "From blockbusters to art house films, these artists deliver every time and we're thrilled to welcome them to the 89th Oscars stage."—PTI

Oscar awards organizers call for artistic freedom, no US barriers

LOS ANGELES — The head of the organization behind the Oscar awards on Monday called for diversity and freedom of expression, saying the United States should not put barriers in the way of artists from around the world.

Cheryl Boone Isaacs, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, told the 165 Oscar-nominated actors and film makers there was a "struggle globally today over artistic freedom that feels more urgent than at any time since the 1950s," an apparent reference to the anti-communist blacklists of some in the movie industry at the time.

Speaking at a luncheon in Beverly Hills for the 2017 nominees, Isaacs noted that there were "some empty chairs in this room, which has made Academy artists



AMPAS President Cheryl Boone Isaacs. PHOTO: REUTERS

activists." Iranian director Asghar Farhadi and actress Taraneh Alidoosti, who stars in his foreign-language nominated film "The Salesman," said last week they would boycott the 26 February Academy Awards to protest President Donald Trump's travel

restrictions on Iranians and six other Muslim-majority countries.

Other Oscar nominees who expect to find difficulty traveling to Los Angeles for the ceremony include those behind documentary "The White Helmets" about civilian Syrian rescue workers.

Isaacs did not directly mention the travel restrictions, but she said, "America should always be not a barrier but a beacon. ... We stand up to those who would try and limit our freedom of expression."

"When we speak out against those who try and put up barriers, we reinforce this important truth — that all artists around the world are connected by a powerful bond, one that speaks to our creativity and common humanity," she said, to loud applause.—Reuters



Cast member Keanu Reeves poses at the premiere of the movie "John Wick: Chapter 2" in Los Angeles, California US, on 30 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Keanu Reeves gets deadlier in 'John Wick 2,' talks 'Bill & Ted' sequel

LOS ANGELES — Keanu Reeves did not need much persuasion to reprise his role as a lethal retired hitman whose path to revenge sees him killing dozens more in the upcoming sequel "John Wick: Chapter 2."

"I love John Wick," the actor told Reuters ahead of the film's opening in theaters on Friday. "We had great ideas, we opened up the world ... making a darn good action movie."

After the death of his puppy and the theft of his car led the hitman on a bloody rampage in 2014's hit action thriller "John Wick," the sequel delves into the character's murky past.

It includes the emergence of a rival assassin and a nefarious Italian playboy who destroys Wick's home, the only reminder of his once-happy life, and sets a bounty on Wick's head, causing the hitman to go back underground.

"John Wick," the slick 2014 action thriller from Lionsgate made for around \$20 million, earned critical praise and marked a box office comeback for Reeves, 52, after a handful of low-performing films. For the second chapter, Reeves said the budget was higher, which allowed for expensive

locations, such as the catacombs in Rome and Lincoln Center in Manhattan. A third chapter is already in discussion, the director Chad Stahelski said.

Reeves' career in Hollywood spans more than 30 years, with hits including 1989's quirky time-travel comedy "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure," 1994's action thriller "Speed" and the mind-bending "Matrix" sci-fi franchise. More recently, he starred as a menacing motel owner in last year's Hollywood thriller "Neon Demon" and as a doctor helping a girl battling anorexia in this year's Sundance premiere "To The Bone."

"My whole career, I've tried to do different kinds of genres and different scales of film," the actor said. Reeves said plans for a sequel to "Bill and Ted," a cult favorite among film lovers, is currently in the works. "Bill and Ted were supposed to change the world and write the song that saves the world, so the pressures of having to do that and not having succeeded yet — what that's done to their relationships, their marriage their children and their lives, it's a cool premise," he said.—Reuters

Obama kiteboards in Caribbean with billionaire Richard Branson

VIRGIN ISLANDS — Former US president Barack Obama is trying some new and dangerous water sports that the Hawaii native had to miss out on for safety reasons while serving in the White House.

Obama, whose eight years as president ended last month when he was succeeded by Donald Trump, learned to kiteboard while vacationing last week on a Caribbean island owned by British billionaire and adventurer Sir Richard Branson, who published an account of their trip on Tuesday.

Photographs and video on the website of Branson’s Virgin Group show the former president, a life-long surfer, figuring out the increasingly popular sport in which people ride a board while being pulled behind a kite. “Being the former president of America, there was lots of security around, but Barack was able to really relax and get into it,” Branson wrote. Obama and his wife, Michelle, were spotted last week in the British Virgin



Obama tries his hand at kite surfing during a holiday with British businessman Richard Branson on his island Moskito, in the British Virgin Islands. PHOTO: REUTERS

Islands, and people posted photos of them on social media. Branson owns 120-acre (48-hectare) Moskito Island, which is part of the archipelago.

Kiteboarding was chosen in 2012 as a sport for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, replacing windsurfing. The decision was criticized at the time

because the sport can be lethal, and it was reversed within months. According to Branson, Obama studied the pastime for two days and flew a kite from the beach, “as if going back to being a child again,” before heading out into the waves.

Branson was trying to learn a similar sport, foilboarding, which uses a

modified board that rises a few feet above the water. He wrote that he challenged the ex-president over which of them would succeed first.

Obama triumphed, he said, by kiteboarding for 100 metres (328 feet). “After all he has done for the world, I couldn’t begrudge him his well-deserved win,” Branson wrote.—*Reuters*

Orwell’s ‘1984’ back as bestseller amid focus on ‘alternative facts’

NEW YORK — George Orwell’s “1984” novel about a dystopian future under an authoritarian regime is back as a bestseller and being reprinted decades after it was written as readers grapple with Donald Trump administration’s defence of “alternative facts.”

The book, first published in 1949, features a devious “Big Brother” government that spies on its citizens and forces them into “doublethink,” or simultaneously accepting contradictory versions of the truth.

Sales spiked after a senior White House official, Kellyanne Conway, used the term “alternative facts” on NBC’s “Meet the Press” on Sunday during a discussion about the size of the crowd at Trump’s inauguration.

Some commentators denounced her expression as “Orwellian.”

By Monday, the novel by the late British author hit Amazon’s list of top 10 bestsellers, which is updated hourly. On Wednesday, it was No 1.

Responding to the renewed interest, its publisher ordered a 75,000-copy reprint this week, Signet Classics said in a statement. A company spokesman told CNN late on Tuesday that was more than would normally be reprinted.

The West Virginia chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, which has vowed to “resist” the president’s policies on immigration and other issues, said on Twitter it picked “1984” as the read of the month for its book club.

Conway was responding to accusations that the Trump administration was fixated on the size of his inauguration crowds, saying: “We feel compelled to go out and clear the air and put alternative facts out there.”

Amid widespread criticism of the expression, even Merriam-Webster chimed in to challenge Trump’s former campaign manager. “A fact is a piece of information presented as having objective reality,” the dictionary publisher tweeted.—*Reuters*

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(9-2-2017 07:00am ~ 10-2-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:27	Am	Bago: A City of Famous Historic Pagoda
07:48	Am	Myanmar Weaving
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Discovering Tribes “MUUN (Episode - II)”
08:50	Am	Kayah Style
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	Marketable Goods-(Straw painting)
09:46	Am	A Tourist Destination of Shan State
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	A Novitiation Ceremony in a Rural Township
10:52	Am	Cultural Show: Theatrical Make Up

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)-Wednesday Repeat(07:00Am~11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	New
07:27	Pm	Travelogue “Chaung Tha at its peak period”
07:42	Pm	Htan Taw Drums (Part-II) “Dobat”
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	The Rising Glory of Myanmar Arts
08:55	Pm	Kid’s Home

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~03:00 Am)-Wednesday Repeat 07:00Am ~11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

If you ghost do you throw shade? US dictionary adds new words

NEW YORK — The next time someone throws shade at you for ghosting them so you can binge-watch a TV show or retreat to your safe space, you can let them know your behaviour has been recognized by the United States’ leading dictionary publisher.

Merriam—Webster on Tuesday added more than 1,000 new words and definitions, ranging from conversational to scientific, to its website, Merriam-webster.com, the dictionary’s most significant update in years, said Merriam-Webster spokeswoman Meghan Lungi.

The last time the dictionary updated its website and print edition was in 2014, when it added only 150 words, she said.

“Throwing shade,” for example, originated from black and Latino gay culture in the 1980s and has been popularized more recently through social media. It means to express contempt through indirect or subtle insults.

“Ghosting,” meanwhile, is to abruptly cut off contact with another person, usually a former friend or romantic partner.

Another new entry, “microaggression,” is a discriminatory comment

or action that subtly-and sometimes unconsciously - expresses prejudice toward a member of a marginalized group.

Other terms include “binge-watch,” meaning to view many or all episodes of a TV series in quick succession; “prosopagnosia,” an inability to recognize faces; “arancini,” fried rice balls; and “safe space,” a place intended to be free of bias, conflict and criticism.

“This is a significant addition of words ... and it reflects both the breadth of English vocabulary and the speed with which that vocabulary changes,” the dictionary’s chief digital officer and publisher, Lisa Schneider, said in a statement.

“Snollygoster,” an unprincipled but shrewd person, has also returned to the dictionary after being dropped in 2003 because it had “fallen nearly completely from use,” according to the dictionary’s website.

Originally used in the name-calling politics of 19th-century America, snollygoster was brought back into the mainstream due to conservative TV host Bill O’Reilly’s frequent use of in recent years.—*Reuters*



Programme Schedule
(9-2-2017, Thursday)

6:00 Am ♦ Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	2:00 Pm ♦ Documentary
7:00 Am ♦ Breakfast News	2:30 Pm ♦ 70 th Anniversary Union Day Programme
7:30 Am ♦ NRC Programme (Mon)	2:45 Pm ♦ Teleplay
8:30 Am ♦ NHK Programme “Japan Job Encyclopedia” (Animator)	3:15 Pm ♦ Weekly Sport Info
9:30 Am ♦ Beautiful ASEAN	4:35 Pm ♦ Myanmar Series
9:35 Am ♦ ASEAN Spotlight	5:15 Pm ♦ 70 th Anniversary Union Day Programme
10:30 Am ♦ MRTV Worker’s Programme	5:35 Pm ♦ Applied Financial Knowledge
11:15 Pm ♦ Documentary	6:15 Pm ♦ Football Magazing
11:35 Pm ♦ Analysis for Myanmar Movie	7:15 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series
11:45 Pm ♦ 70 th Anniversary Union Day Programme	8:00 Pm ♦ News/International News/ Weather Report
12:35 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series	8:35 Pm ♦ Political Parties Campaign Speeches
1:05 Pm ♦ Myanmar Video (Part-1)	9:00 Pm ♦ News/ Weather Report
	♦ Teleplay (Part-1)
	♦ Talk on Old Film (Part-3)

Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

Soccer-Suarez hero and villain as Barca reach Cup final

BARCELONA — Luis Suarez scored and was sent off as holders Barcelona reached a fourth successive King's Cup final after drawing 1-1 with a resilient Atletico Madrid in an action-packed semi-final second leg on Tuesday.

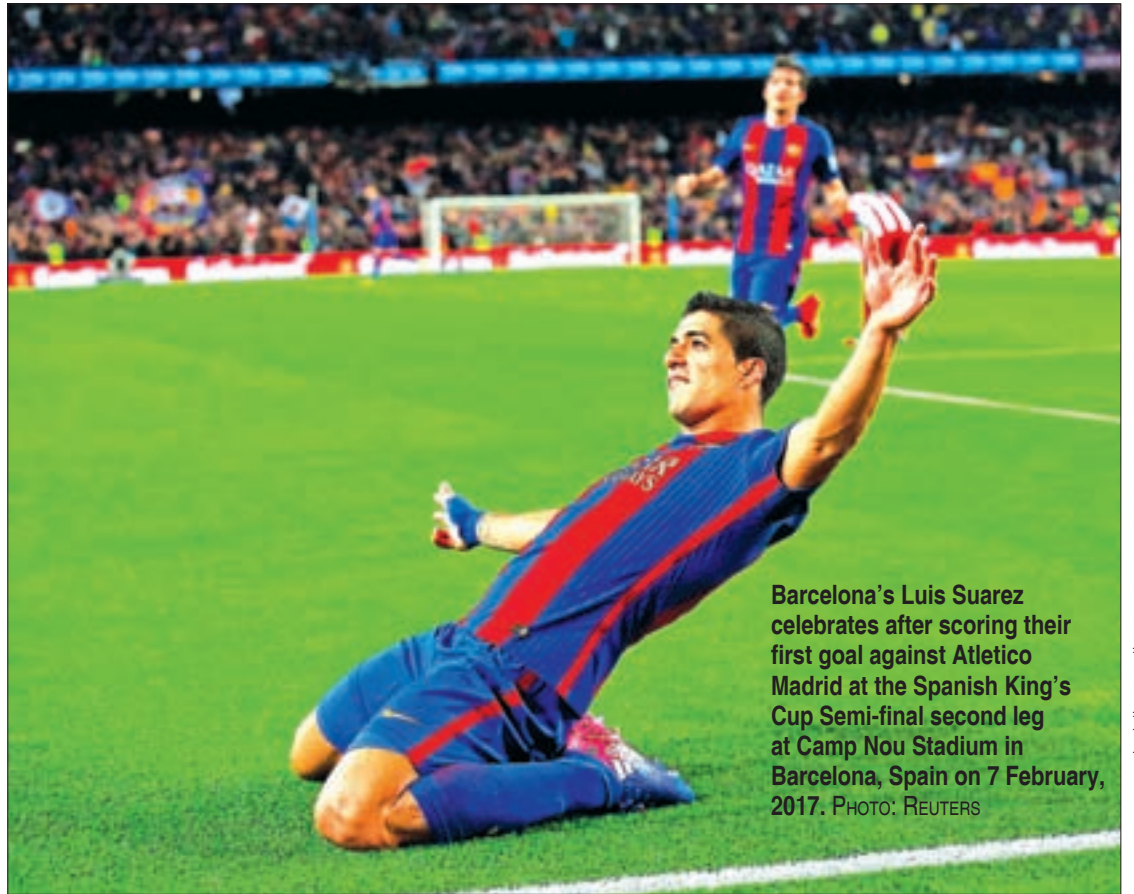
Suarez was one of three players dismissed and will now miss the final after Barcelona edged through 3-2 on aggregate.

The Uruguayan tapped in from close range in the 43rd minute after an inspired run and shot from Lionel Messi to deliver a sucker punch to Atletico, who had dominated the first half at the Nou Camp but failed to take their chances. Kevin Gameiro blazed a penalty over the bar with 10 minutes remaining but the French

striker still made for a tense finale by tapping in an Antoine Griezmann cross moments later.

Barca defender Sergi Roberto will also be suspended for the final after being sent off for a second booking in the second half and Atletico winger Yannick Carrasco was dismissed as well for a second yellow card. Suarez was then sent off in the 90th minute for an elbow on Atletico defender Luis Hernandez. Atletico had five minutes of stoppage time to snatch a winner and force extra time, but Barca withstood the pressure.

Barca, the 28-times winners, will meet either Alaves or Celta Vigo in the final in May, seeking a third successive Cup triumph under coach Luis Enrique.—Reuters



Barcelona's Luis Suarez celebrates after scoring their first goal against Atletico Madrid at the Spanish King's Cup Semi-final second leg at Camp Nou Stadium in Barcelona, Spain on 7 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Boxers Wilder, Povetkin face-off in court after canceled fight

NEW YORK — Heavyweight boxing champion Deontay Wilder and Russian boxer Alexander Povetkin battled in court on Tuesday, at a trial over a title bout that was called off after the Russian tested positive for a banned substance.

The boxers sat on opposing sides of a Manhattan federal courtroom as jurors heard their attorneys give opening statements in a trial focused on whether Povetkin ingested meldonium after a World Anti-Doping Agency ban of the drug went into effect in January 2016.

That question has become key to dueling lawsuits the boxers have filed against each other over the championship boxing match scheduled for 21 May in Moscow, which was called off after Povetkin tested positive.

itive on 27 April for meldonium.

Judd Burstein, a lawyer for American Wilder and promoter DiBella Entertainment Inc, told jurors that positive urine test came after three negative ones earlier in April, which meant that Povetkin took the drug after passing the earlier tests. "The only rational explanation for what transpired here is that Mr Povetkin took meldonium in 2016," he said. But Kent Yalowitz, a lawyer for Povetkin and promoter Andrew Ryabinskiy's company, said the Russian boxer had, like many other athletes, taken meldonium at a doctor's direction before the World Anti-Dop-

ing Agency had even announced plans to ban it. "The evidence will show that meldonium can stay in the body for many months," he said. The lawsuits came after the World Boxing Council announced on 13 May that Povetkin had tested positive for meldonium and subsequently announced the postponement of his bout with champion Wilder. In June, Wilder and DiBella sued Povetkin and Ryabinskiy's World of Boxing LLC, saying they were owed at least \$5 million for the defendants' breach of a contract requiring Povetkin to be produced for the match.—Reuters



VFL Wolfsburg's Yannick Gerhardt tackles by Bayern Munich's Douglas Costa at the German Cup (DFB Pokal) at Allianz Arena in Munich, Germany on 7 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bayern into last eight with narrow Wolfsburg win

BERLIN — Bayern Munich's Douglas Costa scored a first-half winner as the holders did the bare minimum to beat VfL Wolfsburg 1-0 on Tuesday and move into the German Cup quarter-finals.

The Brazilian's 18th-minute shot, which was deflected past keeper Koen Casteels by Wolfsburg's Luiz Gustavo, was enough to beat the toothless Wolves, who did not register a shot on goal for 82 minutes.

Despite controlling possession, however, Bayern never hit top gear and failed to kill off the tie, with forward Robert Lewandowski looking desperately alone up front.

Bayern defender Mats Hummels should have done better when he was twice left

with too much space in the box but headed wide both times.

The hosts were almost punished late in the game when Yunus Malli and Daniel Didavi had a chance each with Bayern keeper Manuel Neuer keeping his cool to deny them from close range. Hamburg SV also booked a spot in the quarter-finals, beating Cologne 2-0 to underline their improving form.

Gideon Jung tapped the ball over the line after Cologne keeper Thomas Kessler palmed a shot into the 22-year-old's path in the fourth minute.

Hamburg, who are in the Bundesliga's relegation playoff spot, hit the woodwork through Luca Waldschmidt before Bobby Wood made it 2-0 in the 76th after a powerful run.—Reuters

Spurs keen to put Liverpool's title ambitions to bed — Kane

LONDON — Tottenham Hotspur are eager to land a fatal blow to Liverpool's slim Premier League title hopes when the sides meet at Anfield on Saturday, striker Harry Kane has said.

Unbeaten in their last nine league games, second-placed Tottenham have emerged as the most likely contenders to halt Chelsea's charge but will have to defy the odds as their London rivals hold a nine-point lead at the top of the table.

"It is a important game for us. We want to build the gap on Liverpool and if we beat them next week then we go seven points clear of them. That is what we want to try to do," Kane told British media.

Liverpool's bid for the title has collapsed in the recent weeks as a five-game winless run in the league has seen them drop down to fifth, 13 points behind Chelsea after 24 games.

"We want to catch Chelsea and it's important that we stay as high up the table as possible. If we can build gaps over other teams behind us, that is the important thing. It is not down to us. We don't know if Chelsea are catchable," Kane said.

"All we can do is win our games. Hopefully they drop a few points here and there. We want to start building the gap from the others and push Chelsea all the way and see how they cope.—Reuters